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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 27 | Min 17 | Humidity 43% Clouds and sunshine sex 83,382 | Nifty 25,665 | Gold 1,43,345 | Silver 2,89,957 | Dollar 90.27 | Euro 105.21 | GBP 121.45

PROUD MOMENT

AI, robotics and Internet of Things now part of govt school education shows team of KREIS students who bagged spot among Top 100 winners at the AI Tinkerpreneur 2025

PAGE 2

NEFARIOUS ACCOUNTS

Police bust reveals how sophisticated high-value investment fraud and illegal online gambling network was functioning using thousands of mule accounts

PAGE 7

Curbs on 10-minute deliveries shall bring much-needed relief on city roads say traffic experts as delivery executives have raked up a total of 1,46,839 violation cases between 2023 and 2025 in their tearing rush

WHAT'S THE RUSH? JUST WAIT FOR IT...

Issue came into focus since December 31 strike for some basic demands

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With delivery riders accounting for over 1.46 lakh traffic violations in just three years, the Centre's move to curb 10-minute deliveries could bring much-needed relief to Bengaluru's overstretched roads. Hard data shows how speed-driven delivery models have fuelled violations and road safety risks. Between 2023 and 2025, traffic police booked 1,46,839 violations against food and grocery delivery riders, making them the single largest group of rule-breakers on the city's roads.

A senior police official said, "The numbers explain why the ban could ease pressure on already congested streets. Bengaluru's IT corridors, dense commercial hubs and high-rise residential clusters have become delivery hotspots, with riders racing against app timers through peak-hour traffic. Unlike essential emergency services, delivery timelines were artificially compressed to 10 minutes, pushing riders into risky behaviour that spilled over into daily commuting chaos for other road users."

K Karthik, a gig worker, explained when the issue came into spotlight. "The issue gained national attention during Christmas and New Year celebrations on December 31, 2025, when gig workers across the country went on strike demanding better wages, safer working conditions, social security and an end to unrealistic delivery targets. While the protest had limited impact in some cities, it exposed the intense pressure under which riders operate. In response, a few quick commerce firms announced marginal pay increases to avoid disruptions during the festive rush, but delivery timelines remained unchanged."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 >>

"Unlike essential emergency services, delivery timelines were artificially compressed to 10 minutes, pushing riders into risky behaviour that spilled over into daily commuting chaos for other road users — Police official

Poison in the air

Long-term exposure to black carbon caused an estimated 14 in 100 deaths in Bengaluru

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An estimated 14 in a 100 deaths in Bengaluru in 2018 can be attributed to long-term exposure to black carbon, an air pollutant released by the burning of fossil fuels, researchers have highlighted.

Long-term exposure to this harmful pollutant led to an estimated 9,592 deaths. Overall, Bengaluru recorded 67,200 deaths in 2018.

While 3,106 of the total deaths from BC exposure among those above 25 years of age were due to cardiovascular diseases, 1,996 deaths occurred due to ischemic heart disease. Researchers have also attributed 983 deaths due to obstructive pulmonary disorder arising from long-term exposure to black carbon, and as many as 757 deaths were estimated to be due to stroke.

The study is conducted by researchers from the National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), BMS College of Engineering, and Bangalore University in Bengaluru, and the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing in Pune. They assessed the concentration of black carbon and carbon monoxide over Bengaluru from 2015 to 2018.

Assessment results show that the average level of black carbon and carbon monoxide in the city was 3.28 $\mu g/m^3$ and 0.84 ppmv, respectively, with CO levels showing a substantial rise of about 52 percent in the given period.

The highest levels of both pollutants

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 >>

THINGS TO DO

01 Magical moments

Atta Galatta is bringing An Evening of Magic, a magic show featuring top entertainers and magic acts. Curated and hosted by the internationally acclaimed mentalist Nakul Shenoy, each event in this series brings unique acts and performances by acclaimed magicians, alongside some of the most notable up-and-coming stars of magic. **Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar; When: Jan 18, 6 pm**

02 Stories untold

Pratibimb Theatre Company brings its play God's Lioness to Bengaluru this January after shows in Delhi and Gurugram. The 80-minute production retells the story of Mahabharata from Draupadi's perspective, focusing on choice and inner conflict. **Where: Ranga Shankara on Jan 23, Jagriti Theatre on Jan 24 & MAHE on Jan 29**

03 One with nature

As part of BLR Hubba, the Department of Horticulture, Heritage Beku, and Rumale Art House will present Cubbon Park Blossoms, a guided nature and art walk, starting at Bal Bhavan. The walk brings alive the legacy of legendary painter Rumale Chennabasaviah, weaving together stories of art, memory, and nature. **Where: Cubbon Park; When: January 16, 8 am**

04 Splash of fun

Down The Rabbit Hole returns to The Drawing Room by Smoke House Deli with an edition shaped around quiet curiosity and thoughtful craft. Kevin Kos, ranked 42nd among the World's Most Influential Figures in Hospitality, will be taking a masterclass. **Where: The Drawing Room by Smoke House Deli, Indiranagar; When: January 15, 3.30 pm**

05 Tune in

Windmills presents a two night live showcase by Naima Farao Quartet, featuring one of Europe's most compelling contemporary voices in nu jazz and alternative soul. **Where: Windmills, Whitefield; When: January 16 and 17, 9.30 pm**

Govt school students shine with technology innovations

KREIS school students make their mark at national technology contest with creations that tackle unique challenges, highlighting how STEM education in schools has been strengthened

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File photo of Atal Tinkering Lab in a school

Two teams of students from Karnataka Residential Educational Institutions Society (KREIS) schools have garnered national recognition by securing a place among the top 100 winners at the AI Tinkerpreneur 2025 event. The students, from Class 8 and Class 9, showcased innovative technology-based projects that highlight how artificial intelligence (AI), robotics and the Internet of Things (IoT) are slowly becoming part of government school education.

The selected teams are from the Morarji Desai Residential School and PU Science College, S Hosakote, in Nanjangud taluk of Mysuru district. The students worked under the guidance of Roshan Ara Begum, computer science educator and Atal Tinkering Lab (ATL) in-charge at the school.

Creative solutions

The first team, comprising Paartha Nayak M and Manish R from Class 8, developed a low-cost heart beat monitor for real-time heart rate tracking. The second team, Mahadev R, Shashank S and Pranam M from Class 9, created an obstacle-avoiding robot designed to move safely without human control. Cardiovascular diseases are one of the leading causes of death worldwide, often because problems are detected too late. Existing heart rate monitoring devices are either expensive, limited to hospitals, or not easily available to the public. Keeping this in mind, the students designed a simple heartbeat monitoring device using sensors and microcontrollers. The device measures and displays heart rate in real time and can be developed as a wearable gadget, a portable learning model for students, or even as part of hospital monitoring systems. The project focuses on early detection, affordability and easy access.

The second project, Obstacle Avoiding Robot, addresses a key challenge in robotics: safe navigation. Autonomous robots are widely used in education, industries, defence and healthcare, but many struggle to move safely in changing environments. The students' robot uses sensors to detect obstacles and avoid them on its own. Such systems are becoming increasingly important with the growing use of automation, AI and smart machines in everyday life.

Nurturing talent

Speaking about the achievement, Roshan Ara Begum said that platforms like Atal Tinkering Labs are bringing real change to government schools. "In government schools, resources are usually limited. But with ATL facilities, students are able to think differently and come up with new ideas. Every child has talent. We just need to give them the opportunity," she said. She added that through programmes like Tinkerpreneur, students not only build models but also learn to explain how their ideas can be used in real life. Selected students also get exposure to advanced-level training from experts.

New advertisement rules promise ₹800 cr boost

Bengaluru's streets are set to see more regulated advertising with the Urban Development Department issuing the final notification for the Greater Bengaluru Area Advertisement Rules, 2025, allowing two advertisements every 200 feet along roads. The draft rules were issued on November 13, 2025, and after considering public suggestions and objections received over 30 days, the final notification was released on January 13. The new rules replace the earlier BBMP Advertisement By-law 2024 framework, extending similar norms to the Greater Bengaluru Authority and the newly formed city corporations, while also reducing advertisement fees compared to the previous policy.

Under the revised norms, advertisement charges will be fixed based on property guidance values of each area, with display permissions linked to road width. Earlier, two advertisements were permitted every 100 feet, which has now been relaxed to 200 feet, reducing visual clutter. The power to auction or tender advertising rights for roads, junctions and localities, either individually or in bundled lots, has been vested with an advertisement regulation committee headed by the GBA Chief Commissioner. The government expects the new policy to generate around Rs 800 crore annually. **— BMB**

Lalbagh-style parks planned for B'luru, says DCM Shivakumar

KAUSHIK JN

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Wednesday announced that the State Cabinet has decided to develop a Lalbagh-style botanical garden in North Bengaluru on Forest Department land, to be named after Basavanna. He added that similar plans are under consideration for South Bengaluru as well.

Speaking after inaugurating the flower show at Lalbagh, Shivakumar said Bengaluru has earned international recognition as a Garden City. In this backdrop, he directed the Bangalore Development Authority and the civic body to extend financial support for the development of parks across the city.

"I have been visiting city parks, reviewing their condition and gathering public opinion. Based on this, several development works have been instructed," he said. He also noted that flowers and vegetables equivalent to 17 aircraft loads are being exported every week from Karnataka, and efforts are underway to establish international-standard flower and vegetable markets.

Metro clarification

Addressing concerns over Metro and tunnel projects affecting Lalbagh, Shivakumar said there was no cause for worry. "Some people are politicising the issue, but there will be no harm to Lalbagh. I have a greater interest than anyone else in protecting this historic garden," he said. He added that while protecting parks and lakes is the government's responsibility, steps must also be taken to address traffic congestion, given that Bengaluru's population has grown from 70 lakh to nearly 1.5 crore. "Necessary measures are being taken to balance citizen convenience and environmental protection," he added. **— BMB**

Republic Day Lalbagh Flower Show, which honours the life and literary legacy of renowned Kannada writer KP Poornachandra Tejaswi, was inaugurated on January 14

Viveknagar drug raid nets major contraband

Viveknagar police arrested two individuals and seized 21 kg 210 grams of prohibited narcotic ganja, valued at ₹21 lakh, during a raid on the evening of January 12, 2026. Two mobile phones used to coordinate the illegal sale were also recovered.

Police stated that they received credible information from an informant about two men attempting to sell ganja on the footpath opposite India Garage, on the road leading towards Vannarpet, within Viveknagar police limits. Acting on the tip-off, officers quickly conducted a raid and apprehended the suspects, identified as Sanjith Bagh (35) and Mithun Kumbhar (25), both from Odisha.

During interrogation, the accused allegedly admitted to sourcing the ganja at a low price from an unidentified person in Odisha and transporting it to Bengaluru to sell at a higher price for quick profit. A detailed search led to the recovery of the contraband and mobile phones used in the operation.

Police confirmed that two other accused, one from Rajasthan and another from Bengaluru, remain absconding. Investigations indicate that this is part of a multi-state drug racket.

Authorities are also registering cases against consumers connected to the network. The peddlers revealed that the main supplier is based in Rajasthan and maintains constant communication for selling the ganja sourced from Odisha.

A case has been registered under relevant provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act. The arrested individuals were produced before a court on January 13 and remanded to judicial custody. Efforts are ongoing to trace and apprehend the remaining suspects, with further investigation underway. **BMB**

CCB busts peddling gang, seizes drugs worth ₹1 cr

The Central Crime Branch (CCB) of Bengaluru police has arrested two individuals, including a foreign national, in separate operations for allegedly peddling narcotic substances, seizing drugs worth around ₹1 crore.

The arrested persons have been identified as Uche Ndudi (25), a Nigerian, and Akash, a resident of Begur. Acting on information that a foreign national residing within KR Puram limits was involved in drug peddling, the CCB launched a targeted operation and apprehended Ndudi. During the raid, police recovered cocaine valued at approximately ₹50.6 lakh. A mobile phone and a two-wheeler, reportedly used to transport the narcotics, were also seized.

In a separate operation, the CCB received inputs that a man residing in AECS Layout, under Begur police jurisdiction, was supplying hydro ganja. Based on the tip-off, officers conducted a raid, arresting Akash and seizing hydro ganja worth around ₹48 lakh, along with packing and distribution materials.

Both cases have been registered under relevant sections of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act.

Authorities said investigations are ongoing to trace the narcotics' source and identify potential links to a wider drug network operating within Bengaluru and beyond. **BMB**

Traffic violations now invite FIRs, not fines

With traffic violations spiralling and fines failing to deter repeat offenders, Bengaluru traffic police have begun registering FIRs against motorists for rule-breaking, including signal jumping. Citing rising indiscipline and accident risk, police say even so-called minor violations will now attract criminal cases, not just spot fines.

The new approach has been rolled out in the West Traffic Division, where riders and drivers caught jumping signals, riding on footpaths, driving against one-way traffic or entering restricted roads are being booked under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

Police data shows that between January and November 2025, the city recorded about 6.62 lakh signal-jumping cases and 3.02 lakh instances of vehicles entering prohibited roads. Officers are invoking Section 281, which deals with rash or negligent driving on public roads, and seizing vehicles on the spot.

Unlike earlier, violators will no longer be allowed to pay a fine and leave and must instead approach courts for further action. The crackdown also targets illegal parking near bus stands, railway stations and crowded markets, with autos, cars and two-wheelers booked for obstructing traffic. FIRs will continue citywide. **BMB**

ITAT grants tax relief to Zerodha director

Vijay Mariappan Austin Prakash, founding angel and director (strategy) at Zerodha, has won an income tax appeal before the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT), Visakhapatnam, against an order passed by the Assistant Commissioner of Income Tax (ACIT), Bengaluru.

In a final assessment order dated December 10, 2024, the ACIT assessed Austin's income from Zerodha at Rs 8.28 crore under Section 144C(13) of the Income Tax Act. Austin claimed exemption from tax on the grounds that he was not a permanent resident of India, but the claim was rejected by the Assessing Officer.

Austin challenged the order before the ITAT, stating that the income was exempt under the India-UAE Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement. The tribunal ruled in his favour, holding that since he was not permanently settled, he was entitled thereunder. **BMB**

Court limits family court powers

The Karnataka High Court has ruled that family courts cannot issue Look-Out Circulars (LOCs) against individuals for failing to pay maintenance to their spouse or children. The decision came after a husband challenged a family court's LOC, which restricted his ability to travel abroad due to alleged default in maintenance payments.

The High Court held that issuing an LOC to enforce a maintenance order exceeds family courts' powers. Maintenance proceedings are civil in nature and enforceable through attachment of property or warrants, but immigration restrictions cannot be applied.

The court noted that coercive measures used in criminal cases cannot be invoked in civil disputes. **BMB**

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Garbage heaps plague vacant railway land near Banaswadi

Heaps of waste on vacant railway land near Banaswadi Station expose civic apathy, infrastructure damage, foul odour, mosquito menace, prolonged resident suffering

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All vacant sites in the city are expected to be kept neat and clean. Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML) authorities are tasked with identifying vacant plots filled with weeds or garbage and taking measures not only to clear them but also to penalise owners of such sites. The objective is to ensure cleanliness and prevent vacant plots from turning into garbage black spots.

BSWML is known for acting tough against those who litter roads. However, the authorities appear to have turned a blind eye to heaps of garbage dumped on a vacant site near Banaswadi Railway Station. Garbage dumped by irresponsible citizens has become a serious health concern for residents living adjacent to the vacant land, which belongs to the South Western Railway. The waste includes used mattresses, an old bathtub, discarded sofa sets, and other household refuse.

Residents of Hutchins Road say they are struggling to cope with the foul odour emanating from the garbage piles. "The authorities took up cleaning work in June. While clearing the vacant land, workers damaged two underground drainage pipes but failed to replace them. We have complained repeatedly, but no action has been taken. This has the potential to become a serious health hazard. The garbage has also become a breeding ground for mosquitoes," said Nirmala Reddy, a resident.

Compound wall breaches enable repeated illegal dumping on railway property

Echoing similar concerns, Vijaya Bhaskar Reddy, another resident, said authorities have limited themselves to assurances without addressing the issue. "Sewage is overflowing into the open drain. We brought this to the notice of the authorities, but even after six months, nothing has been done. This will turn into a major health hazard. I urge the authorities to act without further delay," he said. Demanding immediate intervention from the authorities, including South Western Railway officials and engineers from the Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB), Albert R, founder-member of the Cooke Town Residents Association and advisor to Bengaluru Eshanya Mahavedike, blamed the contractor of South Western Railway for repeatedly breaking the compound wall. "This is the third time the wall has been damaged, making it easy for people to dump garbage. We were happy when the railway authorities reconstructed the wall six months ago, but it has been broken again. Dumping garbage on this vacant land will create a serious health hazard for residents living nearby," he said.

> **"The authorities took up cleaning work in June. While cleaning the vacant land, workers damaged two underground drainage pipes but did not replace them**
> – Nirmala Reddy, resident

Raghavan, another resident, said railway authorities must take responsibility for maintaining the land. "The railway authorities can afford to depute a security guard or railway police personnel to keep a vigil and prevent dumping. I want the vacant land to be kept clean," he said.

When contacted, Vinay K, Assistant Divisional Engineer (Dharmapuri), South Western Railway, said the railways were not responsible for the garbage dumped on the land. "We have already written to the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) complaining about illegal dumping on railway land. It is the GBA's responsibility to take suitable measures to prevent black spots," he said.

BSWML Assistant General Manager Mamatha said she would visit the site shortly. "I will issue a notice to South Western Railway for not maintaining the vacant land in a clean and neat condition," she said.

BWSSB Executive Engineer Nagendra expressed concern over the damaged underground drainage pipes and said corrective action would be taken. "I will depute my staff to the site and ensure the broken drainage pipes are replaced to avoid future clogging," he said.

Whether the BSWML authorities will take effective steps to keep the vacant land free from garbage and weeds remains to be seen. Residents of Hutchins Road continue to wait and watch.

BAF launches science-driven urban living talks

Six-month public talk series connects scientists, policymakers, and apartment communities to strengthen sustainable urban living through evidence-based knowledge

To empower Bengaluru's apartment communities and citizens with science-based knowledge and solutions to everyday urban living, the Bangalore Apartment Federation (BAF) is organising a six-month-long awareness programme for its member apartments.

The monthly sessions will be jointly organised by the Bengaluru Science & Technology (BeST) Cluster and the Bangalore Apartment Federation from January to June 2026, focusing on key urban challenges such as waste management, water security, sustainable mobility, sustainable energy, urban farming, and urban health.

The six-month series, titled 'The Science of Sustainable Urban Living', is designed as a Public Talk Series. It will feature leading scientists, technologists, urban practitioners, and policy experts engaging directly with residents through lectures and interactive discussions.

"Topics will span water security and reuse, waste management and the circular economy, sustainable energy, urban health, ecology, and climate change. The series aims to empower Bengaluru's apartment communities and citizens with practical, science-based knowledge that can be applied to everyday urban living," said Satish Mallya, President of BAF.

The monthly awareness sessions are structured to address pressing urban issues affecting residential

communities and to encourage informed participation in sustainability initiatives and responsible civic engagement across neighbourhoods and shared living spaces for collective action, learning, and leadership.

Apart from knowledge-sharing, the programme also seeks to strengthen BAF's evidence-based city advocacy. A tangible outcome of the six-episode initiative will be the creation of "Science to Society: Handbook for Sustainable Urban Living", compiling expert insights and practical takeaways for citizens.

The sessions will be conducted by representatives from academia, government bodies, research institutions, non-profits, and civil society organisations working closely with urban communities.

"Bengaluru faces many everyday challenges. Apartment communities are on the frontlines of sustainability concerns. Through this partnership with BeST, we aim to equip residents with scientific insights that support better governance and long-term resilience," Mallya added.

Representatives from nearly 300 apartment complexes are expected to participate. Urban policy experts, local government officials, innovators with civic solutions, NGOs, and CSR representatives interested in science and society will also be part of the programme, fostering dialogue, collaboration, and community-driven urban solutions for Bengaluru city residents collectively. **— BMB**

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Pedestrian peril

Avenue Road

With nearly 25% of the footpath blocked by parked autos and the rest encroached upon by vendors, pedestrians on Avenue Road are forced to walk on the carriageway, risking their safety daily.

Street obstruction

Sadashivnagar

Roadside parking and abandoned vehicles have narrowed the entry road near a petrol bunk in Sadashivnagar, leading to frequent traffic congestion and garbage dumping.

Streetlight failure

Vidyaranyapura

Streetlights in Chamundeshwari Layout, Vidyaranyapura, have remained non-functional since December 3, 2025. Despite a complaint registered authorities have not responded or taken corrective action.

Ditch shoddy money habits!

Breaking bad money habits: The real secret to sticking with savings goals

Financial resolutions often fail because we focus on which new things to start rather than which old habits to let go of. Research shows that new habits only take hold when we effectively abandon the behaviours that hinder them. The trick is to identify which familiar habits to drop to make room for improved financial management.

Stop impulsive spending: Make saving easier than splurging

To save more money, you need to ditch those impulsive spending habits rooted in deep-seated psychological issues. Try a two-pronged approach: make it harder to spend and set up automatic savings. Arrange instant transfers to separate savings accounts, remove stored payment details from shopping apps, and introduce friction points before making purchases. Take advantage of cooling-off periods for non-essential buys, and ask a trusted friend to help you think through major spending decisions.

Break the day-trading addiction: Redirect your risk appetite

Giving up speculation and day-trading means abandoning the adrenaline rush that comes with it. Long-term investing may feel dull in comparison, making this resolution particularly challenging. Limit capital allocated to trading and involve an advisor or friend to enforce boundaries. Consider redirecting that risk-seeking energy towards activities such as adventure sports or new hobbies.

Declutter your finances: Let go of emotional attachments

Simplifying your financial life requires relinquishing emotional connections to possessions, accounts, and material objects. If your home and belongings feel irreplaceable, selling assets and streamlining your portfolio may seem impossible. Start small by taking extended trips to simpler locations, experiencing life with less. Create mental space to appreciate minimalism over accumulation.

End financial ignorance: Give up the comfort of not knowing

Take control of household finances by abandoning the comfort of letting someone else manage everything. Using money without understanding how it's handled is irresponsible, yet common. Set small learning goals such as reviewing one bank statement per week or attending a financial literacy session each month to gradually build competence.

Find your accountability partner: The key to lasting change

Choose a coach, partner, family member or adviser to hold you accountable. Someone who knows your weak spots and checks in regularly can help stop impulsive money decisions.

Focus on subtraction, not addition: The give-up list matters more

Create a "give-up list" of habits blocking your goals. Identify comforts to cut—daily café visits, weekend splurges, constant stock-checking or dodging money talks—and be honest about what you won't give up, as these often derail resolutions.

Make money habits stick

Financial goals are achievable only when aligned with realistic behavioural changes. Before committing to save more, invest regularly, or reduce debt, map out which entrenched habits conflict with these goals. Accept that progress requires genuine sacrifice of comfortable patterns, not just enthusiasm for new ones. Build support systems, set up environmental obstacles to bad habits, and focus on making one significant change rather than attempting ten at once.

— BMB

Seventh train to cut metro wait time

Commuters on the Yellow Line will get faster services from January 15 as BMRCL deploys a seventh train on the RV Road–Bommasandra corridor, cutting peak-hour waiting times from 13 minutes to about 10. Meanwhile, BMRCL has floated a 4,187-crore tender for Phase 3 of Namma Metro, covering civil works on the Orange Line between JP Nagar 4th Phase and Hebbal Kempapura. The project, aimed at easing congestion in west and north Bengaluru, has been split into three packages spanning over 18 km.
Tender documents will be available from January 13 to February 25. Online bids can be submitted between February 20 and 25, and technical bids will be opened on February 27. BMRCL is expected to issue a separate tender for the remaining stretch from Nagarabhavi to Hebbal Kempapura via Goraguntepalya. — BMB

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K-RERA asks builder to file compliance plan for Mysuru project

Authority warns private builder of penalties as home buyers allege incomplete amenities,missing certificates, delayed association formation despite possession and full payments

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Karnataka Real Estate Regulatory Authority (K-RERA) has directed a Haryana-based builder to submit a detailed compliance report/action plan within 30 days specifying the list of amenities and infrastructure works already completed and those remaining to be completed in the project - Astrum Grandview - Phase I - strictly in accordance with the sanctioned plans, agreements, and representations made to the allottees and supporter by documentary proof.

In its order dated December 31, 2025, passed while hearing complaints filed by 19 homebuyers, the Authority asked the promoter to place on record a clear, time-bound schedule detailing when each of the pending amenities, common facilities and statutory compliances would be completed. The order warned that failure to submit the compliance report or comply with the directions would invite action under Section 63 of the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016, without any further notice.

The complainants told the Authority that the builder had launched the residential project, Astrum Grandview – Phase I, in Mysuru, with the Bhoomi Pooja conducted in July 2014. They alleged that they were induced to purchase apartments on the assurance that the project would be completed within the stipulated time and that all promised common amenities and facilities would be delivered as per brochures, advertisements, sanctioned plans and agreements for sale.

According to the homebuyers, they paid the entire sale consideration as demanded by the builder, including advance maintenance charges, club membership fees and a corpus deposit of Rs 1 lakh from each allottee. They said possession letters were issued between 2020 and 2022 and several sale deeds were executed in their favour. However, despite possession and registration, the builder allegedly failed to complete the project in its entirety.

The complaint further stated that the builder had not obtained the completion certificate or completion report, had not executed the deed of declaration, had neither formed nor handed over the association of allottees, and had not completed the promised common amenities and facilities, leaving residents in limbo years after taking possession.

Responding to the allegations, the builder submitted that Astrum Grandview – Phase I was duly registered with Karnataka RERA and pertained only to the construction of 132 apartment units. The promoter claimed that the said phase stood completed and that possession had already been handed over to the respective allottees in accordance with their sale deeds.

Reacting to the order, Karnataka Home Buyers' Forum convenor Dhananjaya Padmanabhachar described the direction to obtain the project completion certificate as a significant step. He said that if the builder failed to secure the certificate, K-RERA could initiate proceedings under Section 63 of RERA, which empowers the Authority to impose a penalty of up to five per cent of the project cost.

After 19 complaints, K-RERA set a 30-day deadline for a Haryana developer to detail completed works, pending amenities, timelines, and statutory compliances, failing which Section 63 penalties may follow apply

Padmanabhachar pointed out that a project completion certificate can be issued only after the promoter fulfils several obligations, including completing construction as per the approved plan, obtaining the occupancy certificate, registering the association of allottees, transferring the apartment land to the association under Section 17 of RERA, transferring common areas under Section 16, and handing over the corpus funds. He added that it would be interesting to see how penalties are imposed when the government itself has not clearly defined the mechanism for association registration and land transfer under the Act.

BLR Hubba 2026 brings city alive

Bengaluru is set for a vibrant celebration of art, culture and community as the third edition of BLR Hubba 2026 begins on January 16. The ten-day festival, running until January 25, will host over 250 free events across more than 20 venues, positioning it among the city's largest cultural gatherings. The festival opens with Namma Jaatre at the iconic Vidhana Soudha, setting the tone for a city-wide celebration that foregrounds Karnataka's heritage, diverse art forms and neighbourhood cultures. Programming spans theatre, music, films, heritage walks, street festivals and interactive art experiences, aiming to take culture closer to citizens across Bengaluru.

Major venues include Freedom Park, Bangalore International Centre, Prestige Centre for Performing Arts, National Gallery of Modern Art, Ravindra Kalakshetra and Indian Institute of World Culture, among others. Heritage walks will traverse Basavanagudi, Bengaluru Fort and KR Market, while Rasthe Hubba brings performances directly to streets in areas such as Malleswaram, Koramangala and Sanjay Nagar.

Anchored by UnboxingBLR with the Government of Karnataka as partner, BLR Hubba has expanded to 12 sub-festivals this year, introducing new segments including Nataka Hubba, Nartisu Hubba, Makkala Hubba and Churumuri Hubba. With most programmes debuting in the city, free access and favourable weather, BLR Hubba 2026 promises an inclusive celebration of Bengaluru's many voices and stories. — BMB

State to convene joint legislature session amid MGNREGA repeal row

State plans January 22 joint session, special VB-G RAM G debate, while Congress launches nationwide agitation opposing Centre's employment guarantee overhaul

Karnataka Minister HK Patil on Tuesday said the state government has decided to convene a joint session of the Legislature on January 22, during which the Governor will be invited to address the House.

"We have decided to convene a joint session on January 22. The Governor will be invited to address the joint session," Patil said, adding that the Legislature will remain in session until the end of the month. He said the House would sit from January 22 to January 31, during which a special discussion would be held on the Viksit Bharat–Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Bill.

Patil said the state government would also take up concerns related to employment guarantee and exert pressure on the Centre to revive the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA). "We will discuss the suggestions and the pressure we will be putting on the central government to revive MGNREGA," he said.

Earlier, the minister strongly criticised the Centre's decision to repeal MGNREGA, calling it "draconian" and detrimental to rural livelihoods. "It is unfortunate that the Government of India has repealed the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act. This is one of the most draconian decisions taken, as it snatches away the right to work from people," Patil said. He noted that the Act had played a crucial role in providing employment security to rural citizens, particularly agricultural labourers and other vulnerable sections dependent on daily wages.

The political confrontation over the issue has intensified, with the Congress announcing a nationwide three-phase agitation titled "MGNREGA Bachao" following the enactment of the Viksit Bharat employment law. Addressing a press conference in New Delhi earlier, Congress general secretaries KC Venugopal and Jairam Ramesh accused the Centre of attempting to centralise the employment guarantee framework and undermining a rights-based welfare scheme.

Venugopal said the Congress Working Committee had approved a structured campaign to mobilise public opinion. Phase one began on January 8 with preparatory meetings at Pradesh Congress Committee offices, followed by district-level press conferences on January 10 and a one-day fast at district headquarters on January 11 near statues of Mahatma Gandhi and B R Ambedkar. Phase two of the campaign will continue until January 30, featuring panchayat-level chaupals, nukkad sabhas, and pamphlet distribution. On Martyrs' Day, January 30, the party plans peaceful sit-ins with MGNREGA workers at the ward level. Phase three will begin on January 31 with district-level dharnas, followed by state-level protests and zonal rallies across the country in February. — ANI

Centre pauses state's grand highway plan

The Centre has put the brakes on Karnataka's National Highway Action Plan for 2025–26, citing slow land acquisition as the key reason for withholding approval. The Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has not cleared the state's proposal, submitted in March 2025, which seeks ₹5,536 crore to develop 27 national highways covering 764 km. With barely two-and-a-half months left for the financial year to end, the delay has cast uncertainty over the rollout of new highway works. The ministry reviewed Karnataka's progress in meetings held on April 2 and July 18, 2025, where senior officials expressed strong dissatisfaction over multiple already approved projects failing to move forward due to land acquisition bottlenecks. Officials warned that fresh approvals would be withheld unless the process was expedited. — BMB

Hulimavu police bust ₹240-crore cyber investment fraud

Multi-state arrests expose mule accounts, fake investments, offshore gambling syndicate

CRIME FILES

Police uncover thousands of mule bank accounts used briefly to route fraud proceeds and mask money trails

Blowing the lid off a vast web of digital deceit, the Hulimavu police have arrested 12 accused from multiple States including Karnataka related to high-value investment fraud and illegal online gambling network.

The special operation has uncovered a ₹240-crore scam, underlining the scale and sophistication of the racket. Police said ₹24 crore has already been frozen and over 4,500 mule bank accounts seized, while preliminary inputs suggest the existence of nearly 9,000 such accounts across the country. In the Hulimavu case alone, investigators traced investment fraud amounting to ₹24 crore.

During coordinated raids, police seized 242 debit cards, 58 mobile phones, seven laptops, nine watches, 531 grams of gold ornaments, ₹4.89 lakh in cash, 33 cheque books, 21 passbooks, 48 SIM cards, an online digital payment ring and a book linked to cryptocurrency operations. The total value of seized assets is estimated at about ₹1 crore. Officials said 864 online fraud cases have been registered nationwide in connection with the network.

According to police, the prime accused, Prem Nathaneja (44), was operating the racket from Dubai and is also facing a cricket betting case in Mumbai. A Look Out Circular is being initiated against him. Investigations indicate that several of his family members were involved. Mohammed Huzaifa (22), identified as a key accused, allegedly headed operations within India and was responsible for creating mule bank accounts by luring economically weaker individuals with ₹5,000 to ₹8,000. Their ATM cards and passbooks were collected and sent to Delhi for misuse.

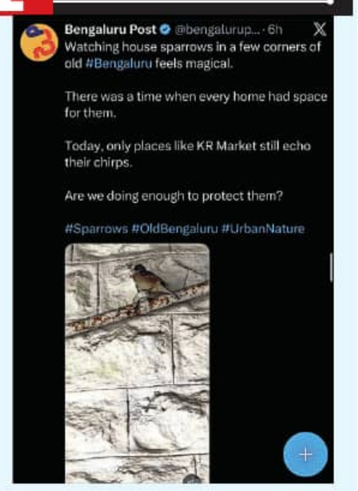
Police said Huzaifa ran the operation for nearly two years, leading a lavish lifestyle funded by illicit proceeds. Ajit and Kushal allegedly acted as intermediaries between Nathaneja and mule handlers, while Delhi-based operatives managed transaction flows. Pradeep Singh handled social media promotions for an unauthorised trading app, "Neo Systems", which lured investors with false promises of high returns.

Victims were initially allowed small withdrawals before being induced to invest larger sums, after which withdrawals were blocked. A businessman who lost ₹3.3 crore filed a complaint that triggered the probe. Investigators found fraud proceeds were routed through illegal online gaming platforms to mask money trails. Further arrests followed, and additional mule accounts were frozen. The accused have remanded to judicial custody. — BMB

SOCIAL TATTLE

That went viral

A social media user highlighted the rare sight of house sparrows in old Bengaluru, noting how only places like KR Market still echo their chirps, and questioning if enough is being done to protect them.


Bengaluru Post @bengalurup... · 6h
Watching house sparrows in a few corners of old #Bengaluru feels magical.
There was a time when every home had space for them.
Today, only places like KR Market still echo their chirps.
Are we doing enough to protect them?
#Sparrows #OldBengaluru #UrbanNature

@bannerghattazoo posted on platform X of a striking image of an Agama lizard, often mistaken for Spider-Man, drawing attention to the colour-changing reptile from South Africa that resembles a living superhero suit.

What's tweeting

A citizen group posted on platform X of the January 8 Chikkanayakanahalli–Doddakannelli Road accident, pointing to missing footpaths and unchecked development that force pedestrians onto dangerous roads.

Civic Opposition of India @CL... · 1h
Another view of the January 8 accident on Chikkanayakanahalli–Doddakannelli Road, where a man was mauled by a speeding JCB. Clearly, the man was walking on the road due to the absence of footpaths. Footpaths are either non-existent or encroached upon by shops and private properties.
@siddaramaiah @DKShivakumar sir,
this is what East Bengaluru has been turned into in the absence of proper planning. These aggressive developments are causing irreversible damage to the city.
Road without Footpath

IN BRIEF

Biker dies after kite string slits throat

A 48-year-old man lost his life after a kite string slit his throat in Bidar district on Wednesday, police said. The deceased has been identified as Sanjeev Kumar Hosamani, a resident of Bambulgi village in Bidar taluk. The incident occurred near Chitguppa when a ground glass-laced kite string, known as manja, was found hanging across the road. While riding his motorcycle, the string became entangled around Hosamani's neck, severely injuring him. He fell onto the road and bled profusely, dying on the spot. Police said Hosamani was travelling to Humnabad to bring his daughter home from a hostel ahead of the Sankranti festival. His body was shifted to a government hospital for post-mortem. Police register case, probe underway. —PTI

WhatsApp status exposes theft

A WhatsApp status played a crucial role in helping a Bengaluru resident recover valuables stolen from his home, leading to the arrest of his domestic help by Bellandur police.

The accused, Soumya (26), a resident of Doddakannahalli, had been employed at the Sarjapur Road apartment of Rohit Bhimavarapu (39), a senior product manager, since November 24, 2025.

On December 8, the family discovered that a 42-gram gold mangalsutra, a Michael Kors wristwatch, two pairs of earrings and other valuables were missing. Soumya denied involvement and stopped reporting for work soon after.

On December 28, Rohit noticed a WhatsApp status from Soumya's number showing her wearing a Michael Kors watch. After confirming it was the missing watch, he approached the police with screenshots. Soumya was taken into custody on January 8 and confessed during interrogation. —BMB

Geddalahalli vent gets April deadline

Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao has directed officials to complete the Geddalahalli railway vent works by the end of April, ahead of the pre-monsoon season. During an inspection, he noted that casting of the first vent has been completed and instructed that it be pushed beneath the railway track immediately, while prioritising the casting of the second vent. He said the entire project, including the construction of RCC retaining walls, must be finished by April.

Rao orders swift completion of roadworks. —BMB

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Not in a rush anymore

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Pressure economy

India has over one crore gig workers engaged in e-commerce and quick commerce, with Bengaluru among the biggest markets. Companies which promise deliveries within 10 to 30 minutes effectively transferring the burden of speed to riders navigating traffic, weather and poor road conditions. Traffic police say this pressure is visible on the roads every day.

Data shows the East Division, covering Whitefield, KR Puram, Indiranagar and Halasuru, accounts for 73,971 violations, nearly 50 percent of all cases booked against delivery riders. Whitefield alone has recorded over 25,000 violations, reflecting the concentration of IT parks and large apartment complexes. The South Division follows with 44,313 cases, close to 30 percent of the total, with HSR Layout and Mico Layout emerging as consistent trouble spots.

Common offences include riding against one-way traffic, jumping signals, speeding, stopping in no-parking zones and obstructing pedestrian crossings. Police also point to an enforcement gap, noting that e-bikes attract no penalties as they fall outside the Motor Vehicles Act.

Safety fallout

A senior traffic police officer said riders are often penalised by companies even for a one-minute delay and are pushed to complete up to 18 deliveries a day to earn incentives. "With multiple apps promising under-10-minute deliveries, riders feel compelled to skip signals or ride on the wrong side just to avoid fines," the officer said, adding that repeated meetings with aggregators have not changed the pressure-based incentive model.

Residents have increasingly raised safety concerns. In VV Nagar Phase 1, Vasanthapura, locals have sought strict speed control on delivery bikes operating from a BigBasket warehouse after several near-miss incidents involving children, women and senior citizens.

For riders, the risks come with limited financial security. "Many work 12 to 16 hours daily yet earn around ₹1,000 a day, from which fuel, rain gear, bike repairs and phone maintenance are paid.

Despite being brought under social security schemes on paper, access to medical insurance, ESI and PF benefits remains patchy," Nanda Kumar, a gig worker said.

With the Centre moving to rein in 10-minute deliveries, traffic officials believe Bengaluru could finally see fewer violations, slower speeds and safer roads, signalling a shift away from speed-at-all-costs commerce towards more sustainable urban mobility.

Harmful pollutant led to around 9,592 deaths

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

were observed during the winter months, and the lowest during monsoon. Experts say the high concentration in winter and summer can be due to atmospheric boundary layer dynamics and meteorological conditions prevailing during these seasons. The low concentration in the monsoon period can be ascribed to scavenging of the particles by rainfall.

"We wanted to explore the health impact of black carbon in Bengaluru. While there are many records and studies on levels of air pollutants over given time periods, the health burden of these pollutants is not studied extensively.

We wanted to highlight this aspect so action can be taken to bring down the emission levels," said Dhanya G, one of the researchers.

Experts say that since black carbon is a major component of PM2.5, the findings can be used by policymakers in realising the potential health hazards behind particulate matter, so the levels of this harmful pollutant in the environment can be mitigated.

Researchers found that incomplete combustion from vehicular emissions was the biggest source of both pollutants, followed by meteorological parameters.

Notably, the Indian National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) set by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) regulate 12 major air pollutants, including PM2.5 and PM10. There is no separate permissible limit specified for black carbon. However, PM2.5 levels are regulated, and black carbon forms a significant fraction of PM2.5 measurements.

"The analysis of five years' data shows that black carbon concentration in Bengaluru is high and nearly 80 percent of this is from the transport sector.

The study confirms that the transport sector remains the biggest contributor of air pollutants, leading to deterioration in the city's air quality," said Professor Gufran Beig, chair professor at the National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS) and one of the researchers.

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I, HANNA CHANNAPPA NULVI residing at No.443, 9th Main, NGEF Layout, Nagarabhavi, Bengaluru – 560072. I have changed my name to HANNA SUMANTH KARBY. Vide affidavit dated 08/01/2026 sworn before notary. H S SAKALESH ARADHYA.

I, BABU BASHA SAHEB S/O BASHA SAHEB R/O NO 61/2, 2ND MAIN, 18TH CROSS, LAKKASANDRA, ADUGODI, BENGALURU - 560030 HAVE CHNAGED MY NAME TO RAFEEQ PASHA FOR ALL PURPOSES.

I, Sreenivasa Murthy Kogihalli Ganapathiyappa S/o Kodihalli Ganapathiyappa R/o #97,sree Sai Krupa,5th Main, B'luru 560096 Have Changed My Name To Sreenivasa Murthy Kodihalli Ganapathiyappa.

I, Ratanlal Sirvi R/o. No-25/1,1st c cross, Manuvana, vijayanagar,B'luru 560040 have changed my name to Ratanlal for all purposes.

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SMALL CHANGES, BIG IMPACT

Improvements in sleeping pattern, diet and physical activity could help you live longer

Studies show how small improvements in physical activity, two to five minutes or more of brisk walking and sleep and diet can meaningfully impact one's lifespan and reduce deaths in a population, offering a more feasible starting place for making healthy behavioural changes.

An increase of five minutes of sleep, two minutes of brisk walking and an additional half a serving of vegetables per day could add a year of life for those with the worst sleep, physical activity and dietary habits, according to a new study published in The Lancet's eClinicalMedicine journal.

The findings suggest that when combined, small improvements in sleep, physical activity and diet could result in meaningful changes to lifespan, offering a sustainable, more feasible starting place for making behavioural changes, an international team of researchers from the UK, Australia, Brazil and Chile said.

The study defined the worst combination of behaviours as five-and-a-half hours of sleep per day, physical activity of under 10 minutes and a poor score in diet quality.

The most optimal combination, seven to eight hours of sleep per day, at least 40 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity a day and a healthy diet, was associated with over nine years of additional lifespan and years spent in good health.

The team highlighted that the combined relationship of sleep, physical activity and diet is larger than the sum of the individual behaviours.

For example, to gain one year of lifespan through sleep alone, people with the unhealthiest combination would require five times the additional amount of five minutes – or 25 minutes – per day, than if physical activity and diet also improved a small amount.

"A minimum combined improvement of five minutes per day of sleep, 1.9 minutes per day MVPA (moderate to vigorous physical activity), and a five-point increase in diet quality score (eg, additional (half) serving of vegetables per day or additional 1.5 servings of whole grains per day) was associated with one additional year of lifespan," the authors wrote.

Nearly 60,000 participants from the UK Biobank recruited between 2006 and 2010 were followed for about eight years. A sub-group wore a wrist wearable device for seven days between 2013 and 2015 that measured physical activity.

Another study, published in The Lancet journal, has found that an extra five minutes of moderate physical activity, such as walking at a speed of five kilometres an hour could be linked with a 10 per cent reduction in deaths among the majority of adults and that of six per cent among the least active ones.

Cutting sedentary time by 30 minutes per day was related with a seven per cent drop in all deaths, if adopted by a majority of adults who spend an average of 10 hours being sedentary per day, a one-hour reduction related with a 13 per cent fall in all deaths.

Greatest benefits were noted if the least active 20 per cent of a population increased activity by five minutes a day.

The study provides important evidence on how small improvements in physical activity can have wide-ranging public health benefits and highlights benefits for a population as a whole. The findings should not be taken as personalised advice or exercise recommendations for an individual, the researchers said.

They added that more research using wearable activity trackers is required in low and middle-income countries, where people's ages, activity and health risks may differ significantly from those of the study's participants.

Data from more than 1.35 lakh adults from seven cohorts across Norway, Sweden, the US and the UK Biobank, who were followed for eight years, was analysed.

"Small and realistic increases in MVPA of five minutes per day might prevent up to six per cent of all deaths in a high-risk approach and 10 per cent of all deaths in population-based approach," the authors wrote.

—PTI

MIRRORLIGHTS

Smart money moves for women in 2026

As we enter the new year, money decisions for women are going far beyond saving a little or just buying gold. With rapid career shifts, longer life expectancy, digital finance, and evolving family structures, sharper financial thinking is the need of the hour. Make smart money moves to exercise control and live with clarity and freedom, beyond following tradition or generic advice. Read on for some practical finance strategies for 2026.

Build financial independence early
Financial independence starts with knowing where your money goes. Track income, expenses, and savings using budgeting apps or spreadsheets. Even small, consistent savings build confidence and control.

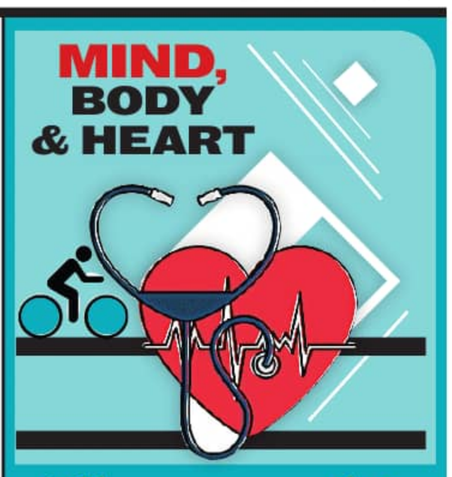
Align money with personal goals
Money should support your life goals, not define them. Whether it's travel, entrepreneurship, education, or philanthropy, align financial planning with what matters to you.

Prioritise an emergency fund
An emergency fund is non-negotiable in an uncertain economy. Aim to save at least six months of essential expenses in a liquid and safe option like a savings account or liquid mutual fund. This fund protects you during job loss, health issues, or unexpected family responsibilities.

Invest, don't just save
Saving alone cannot beat inflation, so invest in options like mutual funds, index funds, or government-backed schemes to build long-term wealth and meet goals like home ownership. Start early to benefit from compounding, even with small SIPs.

Define wealth beyond marriage
Don't anchor financial security to spouse income or family assets. Build wealth that travels with you across cities, careers, or life changes. True wealth is portable, liquid, and self-controlled.

—Femina



All you need to know about...

Navigating conflict

Stress has a way of distorting tone and intention, turning ordinary exchanges into charged moments. This is not a failing, but a human response. What matters is how we meet those moments. Consider this a quiet guide to navigating conflict during stressful times with restraint, clarity, and emotional poise.

Pause before reacting
Silence, even for a breath, can prevent an argument from fully forming. That brief pause creates space between impulse and intention, allowing you to respond rather than react. Often, what feels like anger is fear wearing a louder voice, and recognising that distinction changes everything.

Avoid blame
Stress tempts us into language that sounds accusatory. Vulnerability, when expressed with care, doesn't weaken your position, but steadies it.

Lower your frequency
Conflict escalates when we mirror emotional volume. Choosing calm is not withdrawal; it is authority. A measured tone can quietly reset the room. Often, the more grounded and sympathetic energy prevails, not the louder one.

Lead with compassion
Stress makes us defensive, but a moment of compassion grounds us into reality. It reflects your emotional mindfulness and that you want understanding, not victory.

Avoid need to have last word
Not getting involved in futile arguments is the best way to self-preservation. Clasping to the final word keeps you hitched to the strain. Simply letting go of a conversation that doesn't serve your purpose is the real strength.

Apologise with sincerity
The sincerest way to conclude an argument is apologising for your tone and words that may have intentionally or unintentionally hurt the other person.

—Femina

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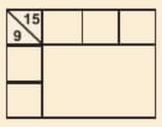
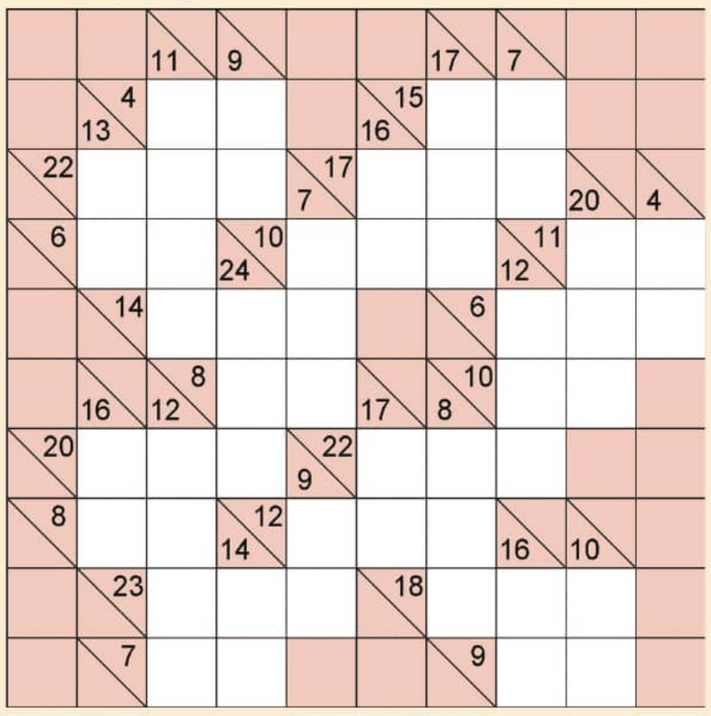
Kakuro

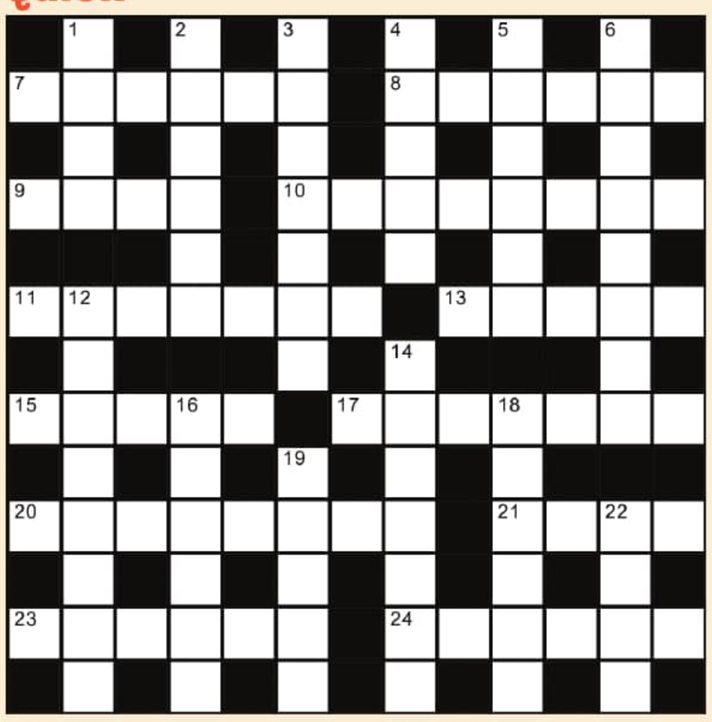
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Competitors (6)
8 Important city in Pakistan (6)
9 European–"Val's" changed? (4)
10 That man from U.S.A.? (8)
11 Turned upside-down (2-5)
13 Utter words (5)
15 Intermediate place (5)
17 Having a long lock of hair? (7)
20 Seppuku (4-4)
21 Suffer defeat (4)
23 Economizes (6)
24 Ransacked (6)

DOWN

1 Jack's uphill companion (4)
2 Former Sri Lankan batsman Atapattu (6)
3 Ran away (7)
4 Foreign (5)
5 Small crustacean (6)
6 Damage caused in transit, perhaps? (8)
12 Ms Chopra of Bollywood (8)
14 Tourist destination home to the Ranganatha Swamy Temple (1,1,5)
16 The Creator in Hindu mythology (6)
18 Artillery discharges (6)
19 Slightly drunk (5)
22 Portent master (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: H EQUALS W

HJ PJJT BI UWNNJQ, BKFB HJ CFV DJFQP BI RYBV.

Linemaro

Are you sitting on the F5 key? Because you look damn refreshing

Mindchow

A poem begins as a lump in the throat, a sense of wrong, a homesickness, a lovesickness. It finds the thought and the thought finds the words

Joke of the day

Sign inside a Belgrade lift: To move the cabin, push button for wishing floor. If the cabin should enter more persons, each one should press a number of wishing floor. Driving is then going alphabetically by national order

Loop

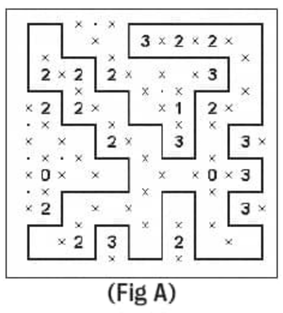
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

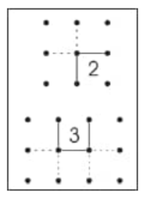
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

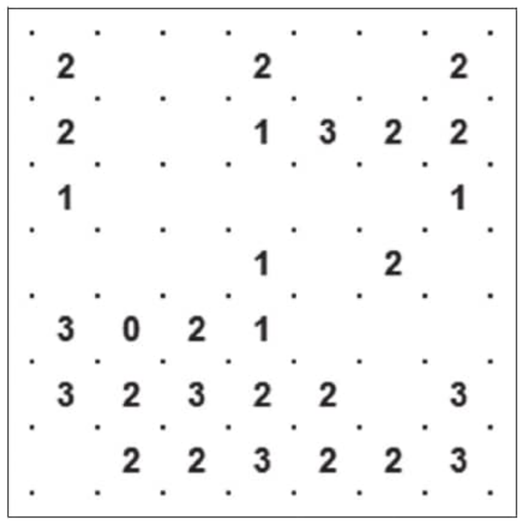
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



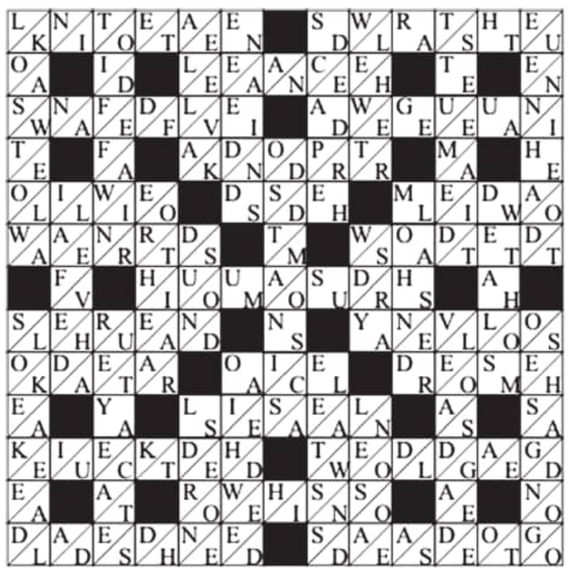
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



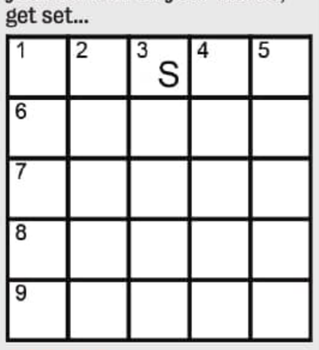
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

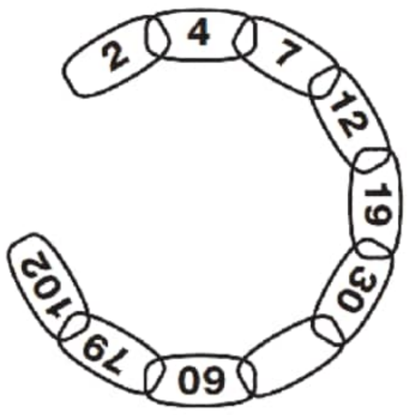
1 Truss; 6 It nor; 7 Wares; 8 Hevea; 9 Slide

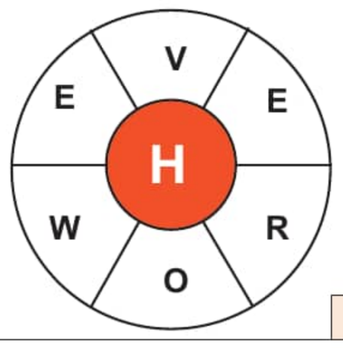
DOWN

1 Irish; 2 We dun; 3 Least; 4 Avert; 5 Roses

Mensapuzzle

Which number completes the chain?





Bull's eye

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

04 Average; **05** Good; **07** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

			9	5		3	2	
				4			1	
		5	2		8		4	
		6	1				7	3
		1				4		
4	7				5	8		
	6		7		2	5		
	2			6				
	9	4		1	3			

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 3

4 5 7 9

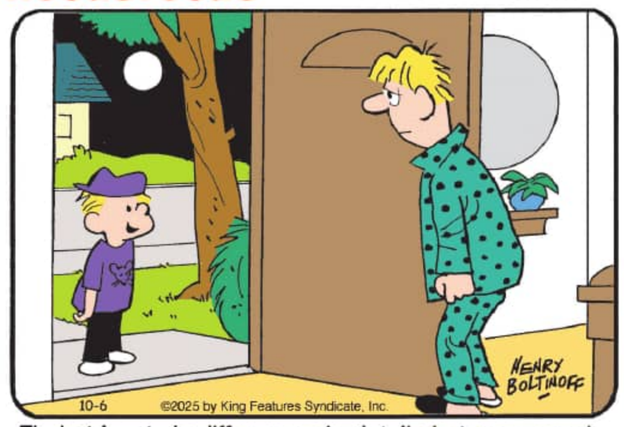
Medium = 17

1 3 5 9

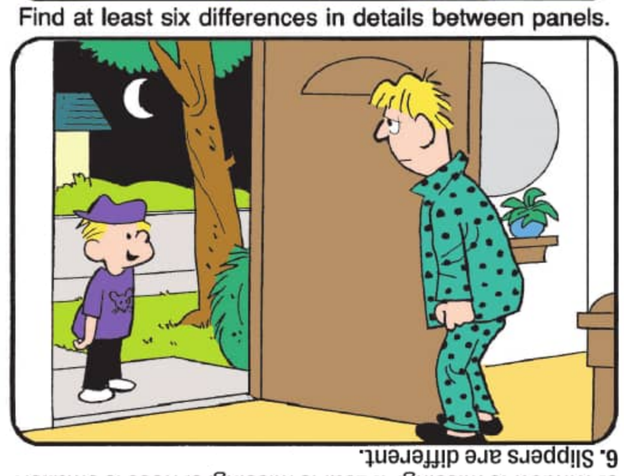
Hard = 12

6 6 7 8

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



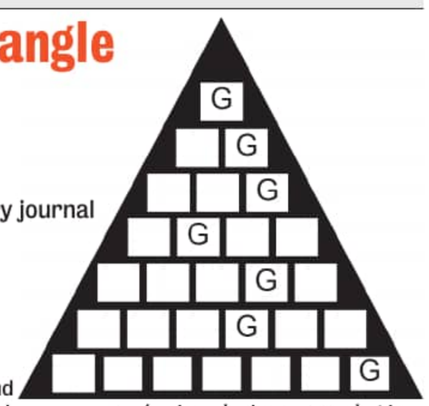
Differences: 1. Moon is different. 2. Roof is smaller. 3. Window is missing. 4. Leaf is missing. 5. Nose is smaller. 6. Slippers are different.

Riddler

I have two arms and a back, Supported by four legs. But there is something I do lack, Actually, I have no eyes to see. I also cannot move around, Or at least, not on my own. Unfortunately I can make no sound, Except perhaps a squeak. If you chop off my head, You are left with a hair. If you chop off my tail, Only tea is left there. One more clue I will add, Is that you often use me. Yet you barely ever notice,In fact I'd much rather be a tree.

Alpha triangle

1 Gram, abbr.
2 Silver symbol
3 Pester
4 Hindu fire god
5 Make parallel
6 _ Franca : literary journal
7 Holding dear

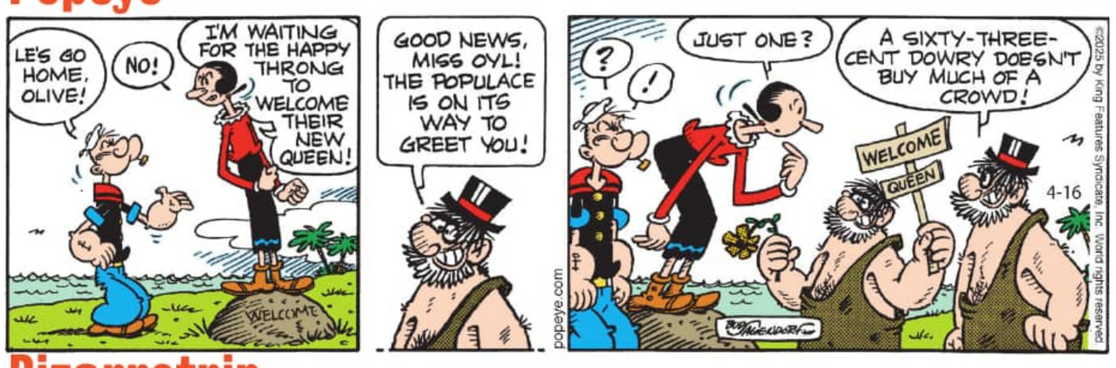


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye



Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

What kind of animal are you? Take this Internet quiz and find out!
TAP...TAP... TAP...TAP...
I'M A FLUFFY BUNNY
I'VE ALWAYS THOUGHT SO
10/16
www.creators.com

Hart of the city

TRICK-OR-TREATING IS FOR CHILDREN.
NOT FOR HOODLUMS AND ROWDY TEENS TP-ING PEOPLE'S HOMES! WE'RE TRYING TO KEEP THE NEIGHBORHOOD CRIME-FREE!
IS IT A CRIME TO TP SOMEONE'S HOUSE NOW?
I HOPE NOT, CUZ I PLANNED ON TP-ING HER HOUSE.
HEART OF THE CITY © 2025 ANDREWS MCMEEL
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Crankshaft

AND WOULD ANYONE WANT TO TRY OUR PUMPKIN SPICED SCRAMBLED EGGS?
NO!
I REFUSE TO GIVE IN TO THE PUMPKIN SPICE INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX!
10-6
BATIUK & DAVIS

Mutts

WRITTEN IN THE STARS

DR SUNDEEP KOCHAR

If it's your birthday today

Your personal horizons are broadening significantly, encouraging travel, new studies, or publishing endeavours. You are meant to inspire others with your stories and knowledge. An unexpected opportunity to teach or mentor will arise. Embrace your inner philosopher; your search for meaning brings profound life direction this year.

Aries Mar 21–Apr 20

Thoughtful evaluation strengthens your decisions. Clear communication supports teamwork. Healthy routines uplift your energy, while focused planning helps you navigate responsibilities.

Taurus Apr 21–May 20

Your steady intuition guides you well today. Home feels lively as exciting plans unfold. Productivity flows easily and helping others brings satisfaction. Enjoy meaningful progress.

Gemini May 21–Jun 21

Resourcefulness helps you handle unexpected changes today. New opportunities appear as you stay adaptable. Supportive conversations lift your mood and promising career developments move closer.

Cancer Jun 22–July 23

Professional praise motivates you today and expands future possibilities. Sharing guidance with someone younger brings joy. Balancing work and wellness keeps your momentum strong and helps you maintain clarity with upcoming responsibilities.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23

Gratitude brings peace today as you notice encouraging improvements. Family time strengthens emotional well-being. Financial discipline supports your plans, and your renewed focus helps you progress gracefully.

Virgo Aug 24–Sep 23

Your reliability shines today as others trust your direction. Encouraging academic or professional developments inspire confidence. Prioritising wellness helps maintain balance.

Libra Sep 24–Oct 22

Welcome guidance surrounds you as personal goals gain clarity. Support from someone close encourages progress. Inspired motivation helps you move forward confidently and embrace new beginnings.

Scorpio Oct 23–Nov 22

Reassuring connections uplift you today. Helpful assistance appears when needed and thoughtful conversations restore motivation. Professional strengths become more visible.

Sagittarius Nov 23–Dec 22

Positive social energy surrounds you today. Lively interactions bring encouragement and clarity. Careful planning supports financial decisions, while meaningful emotional conversations strengthen relationships.

Capricorn Dec 23–Jan 20

Honest feedback inspires growth today. Collaboration boosts productivity and shared achievements strengthen unity. A pleasant visit or gathering lifts your spirits and adds refreshing joy to an already fulfilling day.

Aquarius Jan 21–Feb 19

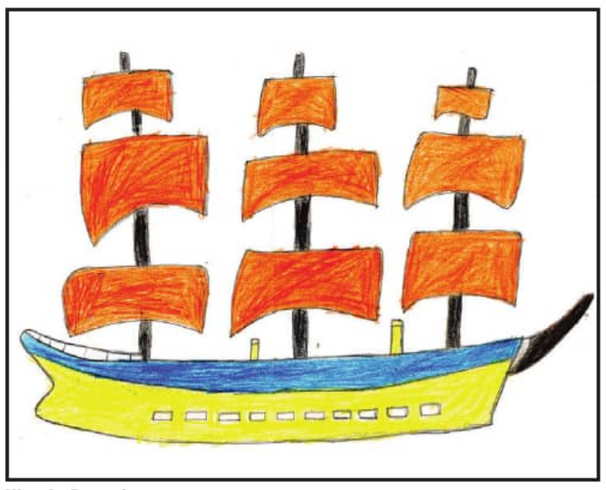
Clear reasoning supports strong choices. Financial relief brings comfort and renewed freedom. Productive teamwork encourages success as recognition grows. Your consistent effort strengthens confidence and keeps you feeling healthy and energised.

Pisces Feb 20–Mar 20

Your talents attract attention today, bringing meaningful opportunities. Extra income feels rewarding. Creative inspiration supports future plans and enjoyable social moments enhance connection.

www.sundeepkochar.com

KIDZONE



Nitesh, Bengaluru

Madhan, Bengaluru

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Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M

(5^(√27 * √3) / 5^(√12 * √3))
5^√81 / 5^√36
5^9 / 5^6 = 5^3 = 125

STRIKE OUT

QUICK

MENSA PUZZLE

43. Moving clockwise the numbers increase by 2, 3, 5, 7, 11 etc. – the sequence of prime numbers.

QUOTE UNCODE

We need to suffer, that we may learn to pity.

SUDOKU

6	4	7	9	5	1	3	2	8
3	8	2	6	4	7	9	1	5
9	1	5	2	3	8	7	4	6
8	5	6	1	9	4	2	7	3
2	3	1	8	7	6	4	5	9
4	7	9	3	2	5	8	6	1
1	6	3	7	8	2	5	9	4
5	2	8	4	6	9	1	3	7
7	9	4	5	1	3	2	8	6

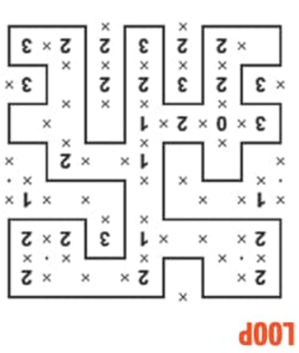
ALPHA TRIANGLE

G, Ag, Nag,
Agni, Align,
Lingua, Valuing.

GO FIGURE

Easy
5 - 4 - 7 + 9 = 3
Medium
5 - 3 x 9 - 1 = 17
Hard
6 + 8 / 7 x 6 = 12

LOOP



KAKURO

FAST FIVE

S	T	S	U	R
O	R	T	N	I
R	A	E	W	S
V	E	A	H	E
S	E	L	D	I

RIDDLER

A chair

BULL'S EYE

here, hero, hove, hover,
HOWEVER, where,
WHOEVER

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Sankranti with Madhuri Dixit

Madhuri Dixit shares a nostalgic Makar Sankranti throwback, celebrating intimate family moments with her sons

Madhuri Dixit Nene once marked Makar Sankranti by sharing a nostalgic family photograph on Instagram, offering fans a glimpse into a quieter, more personal celebration. The image, which she discovered while scrolling through her phone gallery, showed the actor with her sons, Arin and Raayan, during their younger years, with kites visible in the background.

Posting the throwback, Dixit spoke about how much she cherishes celebrating festivals with her children and family. The candid moment struck a chord with followers, who flooded the comments section with praise for its warmth and simplicity. Rather than glamour or spectacle, the photograph captured the passing of time and the joy of shared traditions.

Dixit has often spoken about her sons choosing paths outside the film industry. Married to Dr Shriram Madhav Nene since 1999, she has supported her children's individual interests and careers, reflecting a parenting approach rooted in choice rather than expectation. In earlier interviews, she has said that celebrating festivals together has always been about togetherness rather than ritual.

The Sankranti photograph remains a reminder of those values — a fleeting moment preserved not for performance, but for memory. For fans, it offered a rare glimpse of the actor simply as a mother, pausing to celebrate family amid a busy professional life.

— **ETimes**

Riteish's rooftop ritual

For Riteish Deshmukh, Makar Sankranti has evolved from noisy childhood memories into quieter, more meaningful family moments. Speaking in 2021, the actor reflected on how the festival now centres on teaching rather than chasing kites. What once meant running across rooftops now means standing still long enough to guide his children.

Deshmukh said he planned to celebrate the festival with his sons, Riaan and Rahyl, by flying kites together and preparing traditional tilgul at home. He noted that while kite flying was never a strong tradition in his hometown of Latur, it became part of his childhood after moving to Mumbai. Growing up in a government bungalow during his father Vilasrao Deshmukh's tenure as Maharashtra's Chief Minister, afternoons often meant friends gathering on the terrace to fly or chase fallen kites.

Those memories now inform how he experiences the festival as a parent. In 2020, his sons flew kites for the first time. In 2021, he planned to go a step further by teaching them how to make kites themselves. For Deshmukh, the joy lies not in spectacle, but in continuity — passing on fragments of childhood in slower, more intentional ways.

— **ETimes**

SANDALWOOD
SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Long and short of it

The team behind Amrutanjan, a short film, is excited about turning it into a feature film. The movie is directed by Jyothi Rao Mohit.

"There is a vast difference between the short film Amrutanjan and the feature film Amrutanjan. I made my directorial debut with the Kannada movie Sodabuddi. However, the film, released in 2016, did not fare well at the box office. I made the short film Amrutanjan as I had no work at the time. Now, the feature film Amrutanjan is ready for release," said Jyothi Rao Mohit.

He said directing the film was not a bed of roses. "Many told me that the majority of audiences do not like watching films in theatres as they get entertainment on their mobile phones. We faced many challenges during filming. I felt very happy when the Censor Board members congratulated me on

directing this film. I assure audiences that the movie will not disappoint them. It is a stress buster for all categories of viewers," he said.

The director said the film is comedy-driven and was shot across Bengaluru, Mangaluru and Udupi.

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